

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ICA-11 HA-05 EB-08 OMB-01 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 /091 W
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R 310920Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7598
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1449

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF, ELAB
SUBJECT: CAPE PROVINCE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS

REF: A. CAPE TOWN 1385 B. PRETORIA 4915 C. PRETORIA 4954 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE CAPE NATIONALIST HAS SPOKEN. AT LAST WEEK'S ANNUAL CONGRESS AT EAST LONDON, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE IS TO BE NO EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ON AFRICANS IN THE WESTERN CAPE, NO EXTENSION TO THEM OF THE LEASEHOLD RIGHTS GRANTED TO ALL OTHER URBAN BLACKS, AND NO ELEVENTH HOUR REPRIEVE FOR CROSSROADS. DELEGATES LEFT THE CONGRESS, TIGHTLY RUN BY PARTY LEADERSHIP, SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EXISTING PARTY POLICY, PARTICULARLY WHERE BLACKS OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS ARE CONCERNED. INFLUX CONTROL IN THE WESTERN CAPE IS TO BE TIGHTENED UP, AND ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN THAT EAST LONDON AND THE BORDER REGIONS WILL REMAIN WHITE. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE CAPE CONGRESS OF THE NATIONAL PARTY AT EAST LONDON LAST WEEK WAS CHIEFLY NOTABLE FOR THE TOUGH LINE TAKEN BY THE LEADERSHIP ON THE QUESTION OF BLACKS OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS. MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO DO WHATEVER NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE TYPE OF SOCIETY FOR WHICH CONGRESS DELEGATES HAVE VOTED THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. DELEGATES WERE REASSURED THAT, DESPITE

VERLIGHTE MUTTERINGS, EXISTING PARTY RACIAL POLICY WAS IMMUTABLE.

2. THAT THE WINDS OF CHANGE WITHIN PARTY ARE FAINT INDEED WAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE FATE OF STELLENBOSCH RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GREATER "PARTICIPATION" FOR BLACK PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS (REFTEL A). STELLENBOSCH MOTION, TOGETHER WITH CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS FROM OTHER PARTY BRANCHES, WERE ALLOWED TO BE MOVED AND DEBATED, BUT BEFORE A VOTE COULD BE TAKEN THE CAPE LEADER OF THE PARTY, MINISTER OF DEFENSE P. W. BOTHA, ANNOUNCED THAT THE HEAD COMMITTEE HAD DRAWN UP ITS OWN COMPREHENSIVE RESOLUTION ON NON-HOMELAND BLACKS. BOTHA THEN RAPIDLY READ THE TOW-PAGE SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION AND IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

3. THE HEAD COMMITTEE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMED THE WESTERN CAPE AS A WHITE AND COLORED LABOR PREFERENCE AREA; STATED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT EXTEND URBAN BLACK LEASEHOLD RIGHTS TO THE WESTERN CAPE; AND CALLED FOR PROHIBITIVE FINES FOR EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGAL BLACK WORKERS, REDUCTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF THE LABOR ALLOCATION OF OFFENDING COMPANIES, AND EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPATRIATING ILLEGAL WORKERS. THE RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR A HALT TO LABOR RECRUITMENT FROM HOMELANDS WHILE THERE WAS UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG COLOREDS AND "LEGAL" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BLACKS, AND THE IMPOSITION OF LEVIES TO MAKE BLACK LABOR MORE EXPENSIVE.

4. SHORT SHIFT GIVEN STELLENBOSCH RESOLUTION AT EAST LONDON DEMONSTRATES EXTREMELY TIGHT CONTROL P. W. BOTHA EXERCISES OVER HIS PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION. ONCE LEADERSHIP HAD PRESENTED ITS POLICY, EVERYONE (EVEN DELEGATE WHO SPONSORED STELLENBOSCH RESOLUTION) WENT ALONG. CONGRESS WAS VERY MUCH BOTHA'S SHOW, DOMINATED BY HIM FROM THE STAGE. CONGRESS CHAIRMAN, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PRESIDENTIAL FRONT-RUNNER LOUWRENS MULLER, WAS BY CONTRAST BARELY IN EVIDENCE AT EAST LONDON.

5. ANOTHER HIGHLY VISIBLE PERSONALITY WAS PLURAL RELATIONS MINISTER CONNIE MULDER, WHO ACCEPTED CONGRESS HARD LINE ON TIGHTENING INFLUX CONTROL IN CAPE WITH PLEDGE TO DELEGATES: "I WILL GO OUT OF MY WAY TO KEEP THE WESTERN CAPE A PREFERENCE AREA, AND TO RESERVE IT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FOR WHITE AND COLORED PEOPLE." MULDER ALSO FORCEFULLY REITERATED GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO REMOVE CROSSROADS SQUATTER CAMP

(CAPE TOWN 1421), IN SPITE OF WHAT HIS DEPUTY MINISTER,
VOSLOO, CHARACTERIZED AS "SICKLY HUMANISTIC" APPEALS.

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6. PRESSED BY A GROUP OF FARM DELEGATES FROM EASTERN
CAPE, MULDER GAVE ASSURANCES THAT EAST LONDON AND THE
CORRIDOR TO QUEENSTOWN BETWEEN TRANSKEI AND CISKEI
WOULD ALSO REMAIN WHITE. SOME DELEGATES, MINDFUL THAT
SIMILAR ASSURANCES HAD ONCE BEEN GIVEN ABOUT PORT ST.
JOHNS, SEEMED UNCONVINCED BY MULDER'S PROMISES,
PARTICULARLY AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY HINTED THAT SOME WAY
WAS TO BE FOUND TO ALLOCATE TO BLACKS MORE LAND THAN
THAT PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1936 TRUST AND LAND ACT.
(M. P. DENNIS WORRALL CRITICIZED THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS
ACT IN MORE DIRECT FASHION).

7. FARMERS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY
TO SELL THEIR FARMS, MET MULDER IN A SPECIAL EVENING
SESSION AND ASKED THAT HOMELAND CONSOLIDATION BE SPEEDED
UP. MULDER AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT SAID THAT DUE TO
INCREASED DEFENSE NEEDS, INSUFFICIENT FUNDS WERE
AVAILABLE AT PRESENT TO BUY THE NECESSARY LAND.

8. AS AT NATAL CONGRESS, CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS
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WERE IGNORED IN EAST LONDON PUBLIC SESSIONS ALTHOUGH THEY WERE DISCUSSED IN THE LONG PRIVATE SESSIONS THAT HAVE BECOME A FEATURE OF WEST CAPE CONGRESS.

9. UNLIKE DURBAN, THERE WAS LITTLE PUBLIC ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, ALTHOUGH BOTHA DID GET IN A FEW MILD DIGS AT THE WEST IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

10. PETTY APARTHEID WAS ALSO NOT MUCH OF AN ISSUE AT CAPE CONGRESS. INDEED, WHEN MINISTERS KOORNHOF (SPORT) AND STEYN (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) INFORMED DELEGATES THAT PERMITS MAY SOON NO LONGER BE REQUIRED FOR MIXED SPORT (AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE AT PREVIOUS CONGRESSES), NO OBJECTION OR QUESTIONS WERE RAISED BY DELEGATES.

11. CONGRESS ALSO DECIDED TO REPLACE ITS REGULAR COLLECTION OF FUNDS THIS YEAR WITH A SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE A TRUST FUND OF ONE MILLION RAND. DONATIONS WILL BE SOLICITED FROM COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS AND MONEY WILL BE HANDED OVER TO NATIONAL PARTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONTROL.

12. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, THE VOICE OF THE CAPE NATIONALIST HEARD AT EAST LONDON LAST WEEK WAS THAT OF THE HARD LINER, DETERMINED TO KEEP THE CAPE WHITE. WHILE A FEW MODERATES WARNED THAT WHITE SURVIVAL REQUIRED FURTHER CHANGES AND THAT THE CONGRESS NEEDED TO BE REALISTIC AND NOT RIDE ROUGHSHOD OVER BLACK INTERESTS, MOST DELEGATES SEEMED SATISFIED WITH EXISTING VERKRAMPT POLICY. CONGRESS LEADERSHIP FOLLOWED NATAL CONGRESS IN GENERALLY REJECTING ANY POWER SHARING WITH BLACKS, WHILE ALSO ORCHESTRATING A STRONG STAND SPECIFICALLY AGAINST A PERMANENT BLACK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCE IN THE CAPE. THE SIREN SONG OF A WHITE HOMELAND ONCE AGAIN WAS SUNG, AND IT EASILY DROWNED OUT THE THIN, REEDY VOICE OF THE VERLIGHTE. AHLGREN

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